

# THE FUTURE OF BLOOMINGTON

## COUNCIL OUTLINES ACTION PLAN

By Mayor Gene Winstead

CLOSE YOUR EYES AND IMAGINE Bloomington in 2025. What do you see? Buildings that fit your lifestyle? A variety of activities available in an extensive park system? Improved and expanded infrastructure? Programs and services that meet your changing interests and needs?

Bloomington is never content to follow the crowd. From parks to public safety, elected officials and City employees are always asking, “Is there a better way?” As a result, our programs and community are watched and imitated by other cities.

My discussions with Port Authority President Robert Erickson resulted in a challenge to the City to review the community’s long-range goals. The process involves taking a look at what Bloomington will need in the future and how it will come together.

To move forward on significant initiatives, the City Council, Housing and Redevelopment Authority and Port Authority have proposed preparing a Strategic Action Plan. The plan will define the City’s strategy for development, redevelopment, City services, infrastructure, and fiscal strength and stability for the next 20 years.

The city will continue to thrive, in part because of its location. But it is important to consider how we will meet future challenges that include changing demographics, traffic and housing. The process is as important as the plan. It should involve the community and gather input from residents, businesses, schools and community leaders. Discussions and plan development will occur over the next two years.

Time passes quickly. It was more than 30 years ago that the concept of parallel arterial routes along both sides of I-494 was set in motion. Forward-thinking leaders and City staff envisioned the future traffic challenges Bloomington would face. Today, the key link is under construction – the bridge over I-35W at American Boulevard.

Good strategic planning is also about setting priorities among a range of excellent ideas. It is important to identify initiatives that can be implemented and are financially feasible. The initiatives won’t occur all at once, but in three- to five-year action plans. When we start setting the future direction for developing parks, programs and services and consider how they fit with the overall plan, the pieces will begin to come together.

For more information, call Community Development Director Larry Lee at 952-563-8947.

**CITY OF BLOOMINGTON  
STRATEGIC ACTION PLAN**

The Strategic Action Plan will give direction for our community’s future. The final plan will:

- State a compelling City mission and vision for the long term.
- Continue Bloomington’s forward momentum to the next level of excellence.
- Articulate initiatives that will strengthen Bloomington’s distinctive character, extensive park system and sense of community.
- Identify priorities to guide the future allocation of resources.
- Include a financial plan that maintains the City’s three triple-A bond ratings.
- Specify development frameworks for the Airport South and the I-35W/98th Street district.
- Recommend a method of evaluating the strategic plan’s implementation and periodic plan updates.

# TRANSPORTATION UPDATE

## TRAFFIC-CALMING UPDATE PROGRAM IN REVIEW

IN FEBRUARY 2004, THE CITY COUNCIL approved a traffic-calming program and assessment policy to address traffic volume and speed in Bloomington. Last summer, a pilot program was conducted on Stanley Avenue south of 84th Street

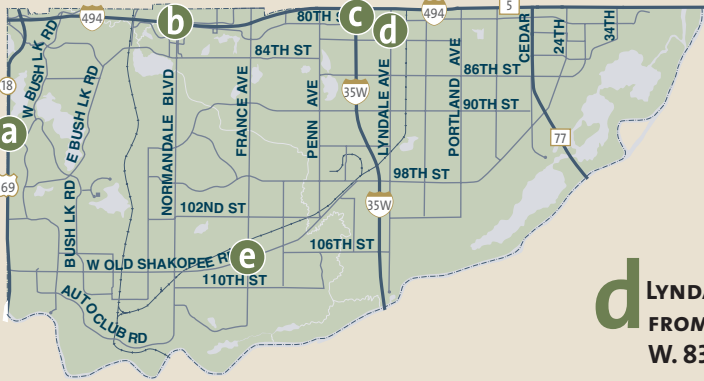
to test the impact of a speed table on a local residential street. In 2005, the City Council, Traffic and Transportation Advisory Commission and City staff will review the existing program and policy, and look at potential

modifications. For more information, visit the City’s Web site at [www.ci.bloomington.mn.us](http://www.ci.bloomington.mn.us), keywords: Traffic calming, or call Engineering at 952-563-4532.

## ROAD CONSTRUCTION

**a NEW INTERCHANGES AT TH169**  
Improvements began last spring to eliminate stoplights and build bridges on TH169. Pioneer Trail opened to traffic in December. Construction at Bloomington Ferry Road began last fall with completion scheduled for November 2005.

**b I-494 THIRD LANE PROJECT**  
This spring, construction on the westbound portion of I-494 near TH100 will continue. A traffic switch to permanent roadways is scheduled for mid-summer with completion by fall 2005. A stormwater pond is being constructed on the southeast corner of 84th and Normandale to provide water quality enhancement for the I-494 corridor. Work will be completed in 2005.



**c LYLE BERG BRIDGE**  
Construction is underway on the bridge over I-35W at 79th and 80th streets. Weather permitting, the concrete bridge beams over I-35W will be completed this winter. Construction will be ongoing through winter with the bridge deck to be poured in spring. The bridge, scheduled for completion in fall 2005, is the key link to American Boulevard. It will provide an alternative way to travel across the community and help ease traffic on I-494.

**d LYNDALE AVENUE FROM I-494 TO W. 83RD STREET**  
All lanes and signals are in operation on Lyndale Avenue from I-494 to West 83rd Street. Installation of asphalt, landscaping, sod and seeding will begin this spring. Improvements will fit with the Lyndale Avenue bridge over I-494 scheduled for reconstruction in 2006-07.

**e FRANCE AT WEST OLD SHAKOPEE**  
All lanes are open to traffic at France Avenue and West Old Shakopee Road. Street lighting and streetscape elements will be constructed this spring with completion by late summer.

Volume 13, Number 1

The *Briefing*, published bimonthly by the City of Bloomington, is mailed to our residents and businesses. Direct comments and requests for Braille, larger print or computer disk to Communications Administrator Diann Kirby, 1800 W. Old Shakopee Rd., Bloomington MN 55431-3027; PH 952-563-8818; TTY 952-563-8740; FAX 952-563-8715;E-MAIL [dkirby@ci.bloomington.mn.us](mailto:dkirby@ci.bloomington.mn.us).  
**Web site:** [www.ci.bloomington.mn.us](http://www.ci.bloomington.mn.us)

### BLOOMINGTON CITY COUNCIL



**Mayor**  
Gene Winstead  
952-888-1258(h)  
[gwinstead@ci.bloomington.mn.us](mailto:gwinstead@ci.bloomington.mn.us)

**Councilmember At Large**  
Dave Abrams  
952-833-0505(h)  
[dabrams@ci.bloomington.mn.us](mailto:dabrams@ci.bloomington.mn.us)



**Councilmember At Large**  
Amy Grady  
952-884-6502 (h)  
[agrady@ci.bloomington.mn.us](mailto:agrady@ci.bloomington.mn.us)

**Councilmember District I**  
Steve Peterson  
952-884-3262(h)  
[speterson@ci.bloomington.mn.us](mailto:speterson@ci.bloomington.mn.us)



**Councilmember District II**  
Heather Harden  
952-835-5919(h)  
[hharden@ci.bloomington.mn.us](mailto:hharden@ci.bloomington.mn.us)

**Councilmember District III**  
Steve Elkins  
612-578-2103(c)  
[selkins@ci.bloomington.mn.us](mailto:selkins@ci.bloomington.mn.us)



**Councilmember District IV**  
Vern Wilcox  
952-854-1425(h)  
[vwilcox@ci.bloomington.mn.us](mailto:vwilcox@ci.bloomington.mn.us)

*Elected officials presented for informational purposes.*

**COUNCILMEMBERS**  
[council@ci.bloomington.mn.us](mailto:council@ci.bloomington.mn.us)

**CITY MANAGER**  
Mark Bernhardson 952-563-8780  
[citymanager@ci.bloomington.mn.us](mailto:citymanager@ci.bloomington.mn.us)

**ASSISTANT CITY MANAGER**  
Clark Arneson 952-563-8721  
[carneson@ci.bloomington.mn.us](mailto:carneson@ci.bloomington.mn.us)

DIRECTORS	
Larry Lee, <i>Community Development</i>	952-563-8947
<a href="mailto:llee@ci.bloomington.mn.us">llee@ci.bloomington.mn.us</a>	
James Truax, <i>Community Services</i>	952-563-8717
<a href="mailto:communityservices@ci.bloomington.mn.us">communityservices@ci.bloomington.mn.us</a>	
Lori Economy-Scholler, <i>Finance</i>	952-563-8791
<a href="mailto:finance@ci.bloomington.mn.us">finance@ci.bloomington.mn.us</a>	
Ulie Seal, <i>Fire</i>	952-881-4062
<a href="mailto:fire@ci.bloomington.mn.us">fire@ci.bloomington.mn.us</a>	
Kent Michaelson, <i>Human Resources</i>	952-563-4898
<a href="mailto:kmichaelson@ci.bloomington.mn.us">kmichaelson@ci.bloomington.mn.us</a>	
David Ornstein, <i>Legal</i>	952-563-8753
<a href="mailto:legal@ci.bloomington.mn.us">legal@ci.bloomington.mn.us</a>	
John Laux, <i>Police</i>	952-563-8701
<a href="mailto:police@ci.bloomington.mn.us">police@ci.bloomington.mn.us</a>	
Charles Honchell, <i>Public Works</i>	952-563-8731
<a href="mailto:publicworks@ci.bloomington.mn.us">publicworks@ci.bloomington.mn.us</a>	

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